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1 and drinking during pregnancy, premature birth, poor breastfeeding initiation and duration rates,  
2 and higher rates of child neglect and maltreatment; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, each year, half of all pregnancies in Missouri are unintended; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, a total of 2,337 babies were born to St. Louis County teens 15 to 19 years  
5 of age between 2014 and 2018 with disparities existing between teens in neighborhoods with  
6 very high poverty rates when compared to their peers in more low poverty rate neighborhoods;  
7 and,

8 **WHEREAS**, people most in need of contraceptive services are uninsured or  
9 underinsured, geographically isolated, low-income, teens, and/or people of color; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, DPH currently receives Title X funding from the Missouri Family Health  
11 Council and uses those dollars to support many of these clinical services; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, there are many forms of contraceptives that can safely and effectively  
13 prevent unintended pregnancy, such as intrauterine contraception, hormonal methods, barrier  
14 methods, emergency contraception, and permanent methods of birth control; and

15 **WHEREAS**, high upfront costs, a lack of adequate training for health care professionals,  
16 administrative barriers, and insufficient information and education have made contraceptives  
17 difficult to access; and

18 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of DPH to update policies and procedures to expand access to  
19 proper care, support, and treatment for patients seeking contraceptives and family planning  
20 services and work alongside the existing St. Louis community of reproductive and sexual health  
21 advocates and organizations; and,

22 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of DPH to provide more gender inclusive patient care,  
23 including staff training, and DPH acknowledges that its clinical services must also be provided

1 to transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming patients;

2 **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Sam Page, County Executive, St. Louis County, Missouri,  
3 do hereby DECLARE and ORDER the following:

- 4 1. There shall continue to be a program administered by DPH to improve information  
5 and access to quality contraceptive services; this program shall include expanded  
6 training for DPH clinic staff related to patient-centered counseling, racial-bias  
7 training, billing and coding, administrative support, and comprehensive  
8 contraceptive clinical training.
- 9 2. DPH shall strengthen the partnership with Missouri Family Health Council (MFHC)  
10 and explore additional partnership and funding opportunities to expand access and  
11 strengthen the provision of quality contraceptive services to include:
  - 12 a. Expansion of contraception counseling and services at all DPH health  
13 centers, including Corrections Medicine and expansion of contraceptive  
14 counseling and education through telehealth platforms.
  - 15 b. Implementation of racial bias assessments and an internal equity audit to  
16 strengthen and expand training for DPH staff on patient-centered counseling  
17 and anti-bias and anti-racism training;
  - 18 c. Integration of pregnancy intention screenings throughout DPH programs,  
19 including WIC and Nurse Family Partnership;
  - 20 d. Promotion of the availability of reproductive health services at DPH;
  - 21 e. Other services and programs DPH deems necessary to improve access to  
22 contraceptives.

23 **SO ORDERED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

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Sam Page